

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 022738

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ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: IO:AGR:PJBYRNES:DKS

APPROVED BY: IO/SA:MMCNAULL

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R 311638Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 022738

FOR FODAG

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 00462 ACTION SECSTATE 28 JANUARY.

QUOTE

UNCLAS GENEVA 0462

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: WMO

SUBJECT: FAO-WMO SECRETARIAT TALKS ON WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE (WFC) RECOMMENDATIONS

1. TWO DAY UNTER-SECRETARIAT MEETING HELD LAST WEEK AT FAO HEADQUARTERS TO WORK OUT SECRETARIAT ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS TO RESPECTIVE GOVERNING BODIES AS FOLLOW-UP TO WFC. DISCUSSIONS REPORTED HERE AS HELPFUL, THOUGH INITIAL ATTITUDE OF FAO OFFICERS WAS TO HAVE WMO PROVIDE FAO WITH RAW METEOROLOGICAL DATA WHICH FAO WOULD INCORPORATE INTO ITS WORLD CROP ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.

2. RESULT OF TALKS NOW APPEAR GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SECRETARIATS AND WILL PROVIDE BASIS FOR CONSISTENT PROPOSALS TO BOTH GOVERNING BODIES. AT THIS POINT OF WMO PLANNING, PROPOSALS TO SEVENTH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 022738

WMO CONGRESS (APRIL-MAY 1975) LIKELY TO BE SHAPED

ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A) WMO WOULD PROVIDE FAO EARLY WARNING CENTER WITH ASSESSMENT OF METEOROLOGICAL IMPACT ON MAJOR FOOD CROPS, PRESUMABLY ALONG LINES NOW FOLLOWED IN US ASSESSMENT MODELS ARE BEING PUBLISHED IN RECENT WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETINS;

B) ASSESSMENTS WOULD BE IN PERCENTAGE OF PREVIOUS SEASON'S YIELD ON UNIT AREA BASIS, WITH FAO MAKING INTERPRETATION OF TOTAL YIELD TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS.

3. SECRETARIATS RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL CONTROVERSY OVER THIS PLAN AND POSSIBLE RELUCTANCE SOME COUNTRIES TO HAVE SUCH ASSESSMENTS MADE AND PROVIDE TO OTHER BODIES ON BASIS OF METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTED FOR GENERAL USE. ALSO, EXTEND TO WHICH ASSESSMENT AND EARLY WARNING INFORMATION WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE UNRESOLVED AT THIS STAGE. THIS QUESTION MATTER FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, BUT COULD ARISE AT WMO SEVENTH CONGRESS WHEN SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS TAKEN UP AND BUDGET REVIEWED.

4. IMPACT THESE NEW ACTIVITIES ON WMO NOT YET DECIDED. SYG WMO HAS SUGGESTED THAT COST ESTIMATES BE DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN WMO REGULAR BUDGET, VOLUNTARY ASSISTANT PROGRAM, UNDP AND OTHERS. WFC RECOMMENDATIONS DOVER OTHER URGENT ACTIONS BY WMO THAT COULD SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE PERSONNEL AND BUDGET NEEDS. WMO HAS ASKED US EXPERT TO ASSIST IN WORKING OUT DETAILS OF PROPOSALS AND BUDGET CONSEQUENCES (SEE PARA 7).

5. PRESENT THINKING IS TO SET UP PLANNING STAFF ALONG LINES OF THAT USED TEN YEARS AGO, TO DEVELOP WORLD WEATHER WATCH PLAN FOR GREATLY EXPANDED GLOBAL WEATHER SYSTEM. EXERCISE MIGHT BE TERMED WORLD AGROMETEOROLOGICAL WATCH. PLANNING STAFF WOULD REQUIRE PROGRAM AMANAGER AND SMALL UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 022738

SUPPORT STAFF USING CONSULTANTS SECONDED BY WMO MEMBERS SECRETARIAT HOPES TO HAVE BORAD RESOLUTION APPROVED BY WMO CONGRESS, WITH AUTHORITY THEN DELEGATED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT PLANNING AND WITH POWER TO APPROVE SUCCESSIVE STAGES OF PROGRAM AS THEY ARE DEVELOPED. SECRETARIAT HOPES HAVE FIRST PHASE OF PROGRAM READY FOR APPROVAL TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

SEVENTH CONGRESS END OF MAY.

6. WMO SECRETARIAT UNDERSTANDS THAT FAO SECRETARIAT WILL PROPOSE ESTABLISHMENT 9-MEMBER AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BRANCH IN ROME, WHICH WMO FEELS COULD COMPLICATE ITS COOPERATION. ONE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO HAVE JOINT AGROMETEOROLOGICAL GROUP WITH TWO COOREINATED BRANCHES, ONE IN GENEVA AND THE OTHER IN ROME. SINCE WMO CONGRESS MEETS BEFORE FAO CONFERENCE, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON THIS APPROACH FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL BY CONGRESS. THESE VIEWS ARE STILL BEING DEVELOPED IN WMO SECRETARIAT; DISCUSSION WITH FAO NOT DESIRABLE AT THIS STAGE.

7. IN VIEW OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR SEVENTH WMO CONGRESS, SECRETARIAT URGES THAT US CONSULTANT NOFFSINGER (NOAA) BE MADE AVAILABLE AT LATEST BY 15 FEBRUARY TO PREPARE DOCUMENTATION FOR THIS MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DALE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, METEOROLOGICAL DATA, MEETINGS, WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE022738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO:AGR:PJBYRNES:DKS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750037-0688
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975012/aaaaabad.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 NOV 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAO-WMO SECRETARIAT TALKS ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC) RECOMMENDATIONS
TAGS: EAGR, WMO
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006